

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-4, 11-14, 24-25, and 28-30 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Claims 1-31 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102 & §103

Claims 1-5, 11-15, 21, 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,907,636 by Nakahara et al. ("Nakahara"). Claims 6-9, 16-19, 22, 23, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,441 by Wee et al. ("Wee"). All rejections are respectively traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites at least the following:

"a direct current (DC) video image extraction section to extract DC coefficients of each of a plurality of discrete transformation blocks from the compressed video image, each of the DC coefficients representing an average value of pixel values of each of the respective discrete transformation blocks of an original video image, define the DC coefficients as pixel values, and generate a DC video image composed of the pixel values."

Applicant respectfully submit that the portions of Nakahara and Wee cited in the Office Action, taken alone or in combination, fail to suggest or disclose the above-recited features.

The Office Action has cited FIGS. 5 and 6, and primarily the DC component memory 11, the averaging section 12 and the DC component correction data Y_n, as supporting an interpretation that Nakahara discloses the claimed "to extract DC coefficients of each of a plurality of discrete transformation blocks from the compressed video image, define the DC coefficients as pixel values, and generate a DC video image composed of the pixel values." Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of Nakahara.

It is respectfully submitted that Nakahara fails to set forth the claimed distinctive feature of "generating a DC video image composed of the pixel values, the pixel values being defined by the DC coefficients representing an average value of pixel values of each of the respective discrete transformation blocks of the compressed video image." Further, in the claimed invention, the DC video image comprises the DC coefficients of the respective discrete transformation blocks of the compressed video image.

Rather, Nakahara discloses that the DC component memory 11 stores the inverse transformed DC data X corresponding to the DC components of the adjacent blocks positioned in the same block position (past and future adjacent) blocks of upper, lower, left and right frames

as well as past and future frames of the target data every block and the averaging section 12 averages the stored DC component data RD to output the averaged DC component as the DC component correction data Yn (see col. 6 lines 31-40). That is, in Nakahara, the DC component correction data Yn merely corresponds to the averaged DC component.

Accordingly, Nakahara does not generate the DC video image composed of the DC coefficients of the respective discrete transformation blocks of the compressed video image, as recited in amended independent claim 1 and fails to suggest or disclose the above-recited features.

Amended independent claim 1 further recites at least the following:

“a color temperature estimation section to estimate a color temperature of the compressed video image from the color temperature of the DC video image.”

Applicant respectfully submit that the portions of Nakahara and Wee cited in the Office Action, taken alone or in combination, fail to suggest or disclose the above-recited features.

The Office Action has cited FIGS. 5 and 6, and primarily the subtractor 13 and the DC component correction section 14, as supporting an interpretation that Nakahara discloses the claimed “to estimate a color temperature of the compressed video image from the color temperature of the DC video image.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of Nakamura.

First of all, Nakahara discloses nothing about color temperature. Nakahara is directed toward inputting inverse transformed DC data X as DC components of IDCT signals and producing DC component correction data Yn for correcting the inverse transformed DC data X of a target block in process using stored DC components RD corresponding to adjacent blocks of a target block image, resulting in reducing block distortion noises of an decoded images. Nakahara is not directed toward estimating color temperature. Nakahara in fact has nothing to say regarding color temperature. Since Nakahara does not discuss color temperature, Nakahara can not disclose a color temperature estimation unit as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Nakahara fails to suggest or disclose the above-recited features.

Meanwhile, with regard to the 103(a) rejection, the Office Action relies on Wee (US 6,349,284) to reject claims 6-9, 16-19, 22, 23, 26 and 27 of the present application. Since Wee is directed toward an image editing system that permits manipulation of compressed image formats without full decompression to the image domain, in which moving vectors and DCT coefficients are altered for removing temporal dependency in the conversion between I frame, B frame and P frame and has nothing to say regarding color temperature, Wee also cannot

supplement the deficiency of Nakahara.

Therefore, for at least the above-mentioned reasons, amended independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the combination of Nakahara and Wee, and should be allowable. Since similar features recited by amended independent claim 11, with potentially differing scope and breadth, are not disclosed or suggested by the combination of Nakahara and Wee, amended independent claim 11 should be also allowable. In addition, claims 2-10 and 12-31 which depend from claims 1 and 11 should be also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 14, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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